

BART GORDON
6TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
HEALTH

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

February 23, 2006

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The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As the Representative of the Sixth District of Tennessee, I am writing to express the overwhelming dismay of the people of Middle Tennessee at the approval by the Committee on Financial Investment in the United States (CIFUS) of the Dubai Ports World proposal to take over operation of six ports in the United States.

I urge you to listen to the voice of the American people and sign legislation that Congress will pass when it returns next week. The legislation will stay the Dubai Ports World acquisition of port operations, put in place a 45-day period for CIFUS to review its decision, require a full report to Congress and provide for Congressional disapproval of the sale within 30 days thereafter if deemed appropriate. This process would serve to calm unwarranted concerns, but also catch serious threats to our national security that may be posed by allowing Dubai Ports World to operate six of our ports.

In a number of statements, members of your staff have said that the American public is misinformed over this deal and that it poses no dangers to national security. Rather than an argument for moving forward, the fact that the public (and Congress) have not been fully informed of the facts surrounding this matter argues for reasonable delay and review.

The American people are understandably concerned by the possible operation of our ports by Dubai Ports World. They recognize that ports are one of our nation's most vulnerable areas and present a likely target for terrorism. They know Dubai Ports World is a state-owned firm based in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). While it may be true that the UAE has been an ally since the September 11, 2001, attacks, the American people

know it has also harbored and aided some of the al Qaeda agents who were involved in that attack. What they don't know and what Americans deserve to know is whether this foreign outsourcing will weaken security at our ports. Taking time to examine this situation thoroughly and address their reasonable security concerns is a responsible step for our government to take. At a time when our nation faces terrorism at home and abroad, the American people must know their government is looking out for their best interest.

I understand the difficult position you occupy as President with many decisions to make. I do not believe a President does wrong when he listens to the wisdom of the American people. That is why I want you to be aware that Middle Tennesseans feel strongly about the security of our ports and fear their operation by Dubai Ports World has not been properly vetted for its security implications.

Mr. President I again implore you to listen to the American people and sign the legislation Congress will forward to the White House so that our citizens can be reassured that their safety is the top priority of their government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bart Gordon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BART GORDON
Member of Congress

BJG/dp